

(b) actuating means in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder, wherein said actuating means comprises:

- (i) a lever arm;
- (ii) a chassis; and
- (iii) a solenoid.

9. (Amended) An automatic meter for reading a test strip, said meter comprising:  
a gimbaled bladder actuator, wherein said gimbaled bladder actuator comprises:
- (a) a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element and a portion in said holder to provide a gimbaled interface; and
  - (b) actuating means in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder.

16. (Amended) A method of moving sample fluid in a test strip that includes a bladder, said method comprising:

- (a) positioning a bladder of said test strip in operative relationship with a gimbaled bladder actuator, wherein said gimbaled bladder actuator comprises:
  - (i) a gimbaled compression pad comprising a holder and a compression member including a substantially planar compression element and a portion in said holder to provide a gimbaled interface; and
  - (ii) actuating means in contact with said holder for contacting said gimbaled compression pad with a bladder in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder;
- (b) actuating said actuating means in a manner sufficient to compress said bladder;
- (c) applying said sample fluid to a sample receiving region of said test strip; and
- (d) actuating said actuating means in a manner sufficient to decompress said bladder and thereby move said sample fluid in said test strip;  
whereby said sample fluid is moved in said test strip.